

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Currently amended): An electronic part supplying tape, used in a tape feeder arranged in a part supplying portion of an electronic part mounting apparatus, for holding electronic parts on a tape member at a constant pitch and for supplying the electronic parts, comprising:

a first tape member with a first end portion and a second end portion, and a second tape member with a first end portion and a second end portion;

a first connecting portion formed on the second end portion of the first tape member;

a second connecting portion formed on the first end portion of the second tape member, to be connected to the first connecting portion formed on the first tape member;

an alignment means for positioning the first connecting portion and the second connecting portion in a longitudinal direction, a width direction and a thickness direction of the tape members, and

a holding means for holding the first connecting portion and the second connecting portion to each other,

wherein the first tape member and the second tape member are connectable by connecting the first connecting portion of the first tape member and the second connecting portion of the second tape member,

wherein the first connecting portion of the first tape member comprises a locking member attachment coupled to the second end portion of the first

tape member, and the second connecting portion of the second tape member comprises a locked member attachment coupled to the first end portion of the second tape member, [[and]]

wherein the locking member attachment and the locked member attachment constitute the alignment means,

wherein each of said tape members having a plurality of recessed portions formed at a constant pitch for containing electronic parts and a plurality of feed holes formed at a constant pitch for feeding the tape member feed hole by feed hole in the tape feeder arrangement, and

wherein a feed hole is provided on the locking member attachment and locked member attachment at a position at which a positional relationship of the feed hole with a contiguous feed hole corresponds with a regular feed hole of the tape members at said constant pitch.

Claims 4-12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Previously presented): A tape member attachment, used to connect two electronic part supplying tapes each having a plurality of recessed portions formed at a constant pitch for containing electronic parts and a plurality of feed holes formed at a constant pitch for feeding the tape feed hole by feed hole in a tape feeder arrangement in a part supplying portion of an electronic part mounting apparatus, comprising:

a locking member to be connected to an end portion of a first tape, and
a locked member to be connected to an end portion of a second tape,
said locking member comprising:

a plate portion, in correspondence to the width dimension of the first tape,

an engaging member provided on a first end portion of the locking member plate portion,

coupling means provided on a second end portion of the locking member plate portion for connecting the locking member to the end portion of the first tape, and

a feed hole provided on the locking member plate portion adjacent to said engaging member and at a position at which a positional relationship of the locking member feed hole with a contiguous feed hole corresponds with a regular feed hole of the first tape at said constant pitch, and

said locked member comprising:

a plate portion, in correspondence to the width dimension of the second tape,

an engaging recess provided on a first end portion of the locked member plate portion for engaging with the engaging member of the locking member,

coupling means provided on a second end portion of the locked member plate portion for connecting the locked member plate portion to the end portion of the second tape, and

a feed hole provided on the locked member plate portion adjacent to said engaging recess and at a position at which a positional relationship of the locked member feed hole with a contiguous feed hole corresponds with a regular feed hole of the second tape at said constant pitch,

wherein said locked member is connected to said locked member by engaging said engaging member into said engaging recess, and

wherein, when said locking member is connected to said first tape member and said locked member is connected to said second tape member, said first tape is connected to and aligned with said second tape in a longitudinal direction, a width direction and a thickness direction by engaging said engaging member into said engaging recess.

Claim 14 (New): An electronic part supplying tape according to Claim 3, wherein the feed hole is provided on the locked member attachment and locked member attachment at a position at which a positional relationship of the feed hole with the contiguous feed hole corresponds with the regular feed hole of the tape members at said constant pitch in a state of engaging the locking member and the locked member attachments.